

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**July 19, 2012**

**8:00 a.m. MHS Auditorium**

**Helena, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Steve Lozar, Crystal Wong Shors, Bob Brown, Lee Rostad, Shirley Groff, John Lepley, Ed Smith, Janene Caywood, Jim Murry, Sharon Lincoln, Jim Court and B. Leslie Halligan

**MHS Board of Trustee members excused were:** Jim Utterback, Kent Kleinkopf and Tom Nygard

**Staff present:** MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Public Relations Manager, Tom Cook; MHS Membership Coordinator Rebecca Baumann, Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Museum Senior Curator of Collections, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; MHS Outreach & Education Program Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS Centralized Services Program Administrator, Denise King. The following staff members attended the meeting for a brief period of time: MHS Museum Store Manager, Rodric Coslet; MHS Human Resource Specialist, Denise Gjerde; MHS Central Services Accountant, Karie Whitlock; MHS Archives Tech, Caitlan Maxwell; and MHS Archives Tech Intern, Renato Rodriquez; MHS Review and Compliance Officer at SHPO, Kathryn Sears; SHPO Cultural Records Manager, Damon Murdo; and SHPO Cultural Records Assistant, Shannon Vuhlene

**Guests present:** Montana History Foundation Development Officer, Peter Hunter; President of Benefactor Group, Laura MacDonald; Wendt Integrated President, Brenda Peterson; and Wendt Integrated Manager, Jonna Wilcox

**8:00 a.m.** – Presentation by Wendt Integrated. - Campaign Refresher by Laura MacDonald.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Steve Lozar called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Ed Smith moved approval of the April 19, 2012 meeting minutes and Jack Lepley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.**

**NEW BOARD TERMS AND A NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION-Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce announced the reappointment of Kent Kleinkopf and Steve Lozar to the MHS Board of Trustees for another five-year term. He introduced the newest Board member, B. Leslie Halligan, Deputy County Attorney for Missoula County, who will serve a five-year term.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Steve Lozar**

President Lozar shared President of the Board reflections for the year 2012. He noted much has been accomplished at MHS stating he is thankful to have Director Whittenberg on board and complimented his leadership style and his ability to listen. He was grateful for Mike Cooney stepping in as Interim Director at a most difficult time. President Lozar thanked Crystal and Bob for their help throughout the year. He spoke highly of the MHS staff stating they continue to be dedicated and professional in their skills. He noted the staff's energy is the driving force of the MHS engine. He thanked Steve Carney for serving on the Board and he thanked Bob Morgan for his dedication to MHS and for his encouragement towards making MHS an even better place.

#### **Nomination of Board Officers-Motion-Nominating Committee**

Sharon Lincoln announced that the nominating committee met and decided to ask the current executive committee members and the current officers to serve for another year. All members confirmed that they were willing to serve for another year. The Nominating Committee placed Steve Lozar as President, Crystal Wong Shors as Vice President and Bob Brown as Secretary. Jim Court and Tom Nygard will serve on the Executive Committee. **Lee Rostad moved to accept the Nominating Committee report to reappoint for a one year term the MHS Board of Trustee Officers for 2013 as follows: President, Steve Lozar; Vice President, Crystal Wong Shors; and Secretary, Bob Brown. The Executive Committee will consist of the following: Steve Lozar, Crystal Wong Shors, Bob Brown, Jim Court and Tom Nygard.** Leslie Halligan seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Sharon Lincoln noted for the record that Jim Murry, Past MHS BOT President will also serve on the Executive Committee for one more year.**

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce announced that the Western Rendezvous of Art will be August 16 – 19 in Helena. He encouraged all Board members to attend. He also reminded members that September 20 – 22 is the annual History Conference in Helena.

Bruce stated there has been a lot of support from the State General Services Division to get the MHS building, security systems, lighting and computers up-to-date. He asked Board members to recognize that staff members have stepped up taking on extra roles in order to move the Society forward into a new building.

MHS is going into television due to state-of-the-art equipment, thanks to the Greater Montana Foundation. MHS is partnering with HCTV and producing a six-part television series called the Montana Heritage Tour. It will feature Montana's small rural museums and will be hosted by the MHS. HCTV will do the technical work and it will be broadcast on the MT network.

Production will begin on July 30<sup>th</sup> and in each program at least two of Montana's small museums will be featured. Bruce stated it was Steven Maly's inspiration and a very exciting venture which should be on the air by late fall.

## **PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS**

### **MUSEUM PROGRAM-Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney**

Jennifer asked three staff members to present items from the MHS collections. Kendra Derrer showed two sketches produced by E. S. Paxson. Starting September 6, 2012 MHS will feature an exhibit dedicated to his work. Vic Reiman presented an 1884 Springfield rifle which represents the type of rifle E. S. Paxson had when he volunteered in the Philippines. Rowena Harrington demonstrated a pair of shoes donated by Susan Clark that had been worn by a Helena businesswoman named Big Dorothy.

Handouts were presented by Jennifer advertising the Western Rendezvous of Art. She explained that an upcoming exhibit is being prepared for a cultural history of Montana weddings titled "I Do".

Jennifer noted that work continues on the recommendations of the security audit. She will answer questions individually for anyone with questions on the security audit.

### **RESEARCH CENTER-Motion-Molly Kruckenberg**

Molly commented it amazes her as to how many patrons are helped in the Research Center each quarter. This past quarter there were 3,211 patrons given research assistance. 1,167 patrons were assisted in person and 2,044 were assisted by phone and email. One of the biggest projects the Research staff is working on right now is the cataloging blitz which will make the shared cataloging process more accessible. The government records grant project is moving along very well. Molly stated she has been working hard on collection acquisitions this last quarter. 75% of the Tom Mulvaney post card collection is now under ownership of MHS and she is confident the remainder of the funds will come in by the end of the year. Molly announced the retirement of Ellie Arguimbau after 35 years of service and wished her well.

### **July, 2012 Deaccession List**

Molly explained that a deaccession list consists of items that are out-of-date, non-Montana history items or items that are duplicate copies which no longer meet the library collection management policy. **Jim Court moved approval of the July, 2012 Deaccession List as presented. Bob Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

### **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE-Mark Bauml**

Mark explained that one of the roles of the SHPO office is to maintain the statewide inventory of all the recorded historic sites in the State of Montana and to record all the studies that have been done. This is called the state antiquities database. Shannon Vuhlene and Damon Murdo gave a demonstration of the database noting that there are currently 53,000 sites recorded. Damon stated that there is a public version of this database and he explained exactly what information

will be currently available to the user. Mark commented that this shows just how much information SHPO is mandated to keep track of and yet less than 10% of the State has been inventoried. They have come a long ways and have a long ways to go to get all inventory recorded.

#### **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION-Kirby Lambert**

Kirby reported that the newest O & I project is tied to Ledgerart and is titled “The Art of Storytelling” for grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. He explained that CD’s were mailed with the packets explaining to teachers how to teach Ledgerart and at least 900 copies were sent to schools.

#### **PUBLICATIONS-Molly Holz**

Molly announced that the summer magazine should have arrived in the mail by now. She said she has been working on a marketing plan on how to sell e-books. Research shows that having e-books available actually increases sales. Molly highlighted social media endeavors being used at this time and their benefits.

#### **CENTRAL SERVICES-Denise King**

Denise commented that eleven MHS employees will receive service awards for longevity, ranging from 5 years to 30 years. The service awards will be given at a staff meeting. Denise reported that the Museum Store held a tent sale on the front lawn of MHS in June and sold prints and books totaling \$4,000. Denise will sell store merchandise at the upcoming Bannack days. Cash flow in the store is increasing but it is still an area of concern, please support the store.

Denise said the good news is HB 5 has been submitted and MHS is included in it. HB 5 deals with bonding and cash.

Denise reported that the Department of Administration partnered with MHS in order to update the fire alarm system in the building with a completion date scheduled for the month of October. She also discussed upgrades in each department that will be taking place including new computer systems for many employees in the building.

Bruce Whittenberg thanked Denise and her staff for the work they do in closing out the fiscal year. He also thanked Chris Carson for his work in upgrading the MHS technology within the last few months.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Susan Near handed out the 2012 WRA sale catalog and encouraged Board members attendance in the upcoming event.

#### **NEW BUSINESS-Motion**

Sharon Lincoln reported on the MHS employee appreciation picnic finances. She asked Board members what they would like done with any left over money they donated towards the picnic and suggested returning it as a donation towards the Tom Mulvaney post card collection.

**Sharon Lincoln moved to donate left over picnic finances collected by the Board members to the Tom Mulvaney post card collection fund. Jim Court seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Shirley Groff shared a story about a Butte historian named Chris Fisk who recently received a national award. President Lozar asked Bruce Whittenberg to write a letter acknowledging Chris' award and his dedication to Montana history.

**NEXT MEETING-September 20, 2012**

President Lozar announced that a group photo of the BOT members will be taken at the next Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

2:40 p.m.